



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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14 MAY 1966

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1. South Vietnam

The principal labor confederation today threatened to call a general strike in the Saigon area on Monday unless the government acts against the police for recent alleged antilabor acts. The US Embassy notes that the confederation's specific demands this time are "unquestionably reasonable" and believes the government will give in.

The strike threat seems to be a result of an accumulation of grievances by this generally progovernment labor group.

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On the political scene, a prominent Buddhist monk referred publicly today to Ky's statements regarding his continuation in office for another year. He said simply that, for the moment, he cannot take these remarks seriously.

2. North Vietnam

The high-level Rumanian visitors to Hanoi seem to have accomplished little if anything. Reading between the lines of the joint communiqué issued on their departure leaves the impression of important areas of disagreement.

The communiqué included the usual mutually gratifying language, but omitted the customary reference to a "complete identity of views." The Rumanians very likely tried to budge the North Vietnamese on the issue of negotiations and got nowhere.

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3. Rumania

[redacted] Soviet leader Brezhnev's talks in Bucharest this week with Rumanian leaders suggest that differences between the two countries are indeed basic.

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These differences are illustrated by the highly nationalistic tone of a recent speech by Rumanian party chief Ceausescu, widely reported in this morning's press. Contrary to the press, however, we believe this speech was intended to make the Rumanian position clear before Brezhnev arrived, rather than being the cause of his visit. The trip was scheduled as early as April.

More to the point, there is good evidence that the Russians have been concerned with Rumania's apparent independent efforts to widen its neutralist role in Asian affairs, both in the Sino-Soviet dispute and in seeking for the first time to establish a role for itself in the Vietnam situation.

The other major issue between Moscow and Bucharest is probably Rumania's long efforts to reduce its role in Warsaw Pact affairs and perhaps [redacted]

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to disengage from the Pact coincident with France's decisions concerning NATO.

4. Poland

Warsaw yesterday demanded that three of the four US defense attachés there leave the country.

Although not billed as such, this action was in retaliation for the 4 May expulsion of a Polish attaché from the US, which in turn was in retaliation for harassment of US attachés in Poland. The delayed response came hard upon news of the House Ways and Means Committee's refusal to consider the East-West trade bill this year.

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5. Rhodesia

[redacted] the London talks with Rhodesian representatives, which began on Tuesday, are off to a slow start. There is much sparring and reluctance to come to grips with the problems.

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Meanwhile, the Portuguese are convincing themselves that Britain intends to dump the blame for the continued survival of Rhodesia at their door. They contend that, because of economic self-interest, London cannot bear down on South Africa. This hypothesis also includes the notion that Britain intends to invade Rhodesia through Mozambique.

Lisbon is in fact reinforcing its already substantial forces in Mozambique, but this is at least in part directed against growing African insurgency there.

6. Guatemala

Terrorists in Guatemala City yesterday machine-gunned a police patrol car, killing one officer and wounding two. The terrorists escaped. This may not have been a planned incident, since it appeared that the terrorists simply panicked when halted for an ordinary traffic violation.

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[redacted] There is still no clue as to the whereabouts of the government officials kidnaped last week.

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7. Bolivia

Developing political tensions may force postponement of the 3 July national elections.

There is squabbling among the four parties composing the electoral alliance of General Barrientos, who is still the only presidential candidate. Student hostility, agitation in the tin mines, and opposition of most other political parties to the elections are further muddying the waters.

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